

**To:** R6 Daily News MailList[R6\_DailyNewsML@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hubbard, Joseph  
**Sent:** Mon 8/31/2015 2:20:39 PM  
**Subject:** Daily News Digest, Monday, Aug. 31

**1 — Mixed bag in Texas' court challenges of Obama's EPA, Click Houston, 8/30/2015**

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/mixed-bag-in-texas-court-challenges-of-obamas-epa/35008114>

Nearly two dozen Texas challenges against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during the current administration have yielded a mixed bag. The Austin American-Statesman reviewed 23 actions filed by the Texas attorney general's office since 2009, when President Barack Obama took office.

**2 — 4th congressional hearing planned on Colorado mine blowout, KOB, 8/28/2015**

<http://www.kob.com/article/stories/s3891915.shtml>

A fourth congressional hearing is planned on the release of tainted wastewater from a Colorado gold mine that affected three states. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee announced Friday it plans a hearing on Sept. 16.

**3 – Judge Casts EPA Rule into Muddy Legal Waters, Texas Tribune, 8/28/2015**

<http://www.texastribune.org/2015/08/28/texas-disputing-epa-implementation-clean-water-rul/>

After a setback in court Thursday, can the federal government enforce its controversial "Waters of the U.S." rule in Texas? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says yes. Texas says no.

**4 — California cuts water use by 31 percent in July, Times Picayune, 8/27/15**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/08/california\\_cuts\\_water\\_use.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/08/california_cuts_water_use.html#incart_river)

California cities cut water use by a combined 31 percent in July, exceeding the governor's statewide mandate to conserve, officials said Thursday. The strong water conservation figures show California residents are beginning to understand the dire need to cut back in a fourth year of drought, Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, said.

**5 Why Obama's Clean Power Plan Could Mean Opportunity for Some Industries in Oklahoma, NPR, 8/27/2015** <https://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2015/08/27/why-obamas-clean-power-plan-could-mean-opportunity-for-some-industries-in-oklahoma/>

President Obama's Clean Power Plan enraged many top officials in Oklahoma, who argued the rules were an expensive, unnecessary overreach by the federal government. But the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions could create opportunities in Oklahoma, researchers and officials say.

**6 2 crew members injured after pipeline ruptures in Gulf, Fuel Fix, 8/27/2015**

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2015/08/27/2-crew-members-injured-after-pipeline-ruptures-in-gulf/#34117101=0>

The Coast Guard says two workers were injured after a natural gas pipeline ruptured in the Gulf of Mexico about 25 miles south of Marsh Island. Petty Officer Ryan Tippets said the rupture caused the pipeline to catch fire. He said the injured crew members were taken to a hospital in Houma.

**7 – Documents: Workers had no way to issue warning after spill, Wichita Eagle, 8/27/2015**

<http://www.kansas.com/news/business/article32513490.html>

Members of a federal cleanup crew were initially trapped and unable to warn downstream communities that they had accidentally unleashed toxic waste water from a Colorado gold mine, according to government documents released Thursday. During that time, a trickle of water started by excavation work at the site grew to a torrent and 3 million gallons eventually poured out of the remote Gold King Mine near Silverton, fouling downstream rivers in Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

**8 — Judge: Corps must pay full \$3 billion cost of restoring MR-GO wetlands, Times Picayune, 8/27/2015**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/08/federal\\_judge\\_to\\_corps\\_restore.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/08/federal_judge_to_corps_restore.html#incart_river)

The Army Corps of Engineers must pay the full \$3 billion cost of restoring wetlands destroyed by the agency's improper construction and maintenance of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, a federal judge in New Orleans ruled Thursday (Aug. 27).

**9 — Navajo Nation reopens irrigation canal 3 weeks after mine spill, Denver Post, 8/28/2015**

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_28720782/navajo-nation-reopens-irrigation-canal-3-weeks-after](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28720782/navajo-nation-reopens-irrigation-canal-3-weeks-after)

The Navajo Nation reopened an irrigation canal along the San Juan River in New Mexico on Friday, more than three weeks after a 3 million-gallon mine wastewater spill upstream in Colorado. Robert Joe, chief operations officer for the tribe's president and vice president, says beyond the Fruitland, N.M., canal, the river and all other extensions remain closed.

**10 — The Difficulty of Taking a Bite Out of Food Waste, Wall Street Journal, 8/28/2015**

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-difficulty-of-taking-a-bite-out-of-food-waste-1440780766>

People who buy and sell food obviously intend for it to be eaten. But in the U.S., a shocking amount of perfectly good food gets trashed. In its most recent report, the Agriculture Department estimated that 133 billion pounds of food was lost at the retail and consumer levels in 2010

**11 Santa Fe River turns green during drainage test, KOB, 8/28/2015**

<http://www.kob.com/article/stories/s3891380.shtml>

After a water drainage test in the Santa Fe River turned the normally clear water bright green many surprised residents are calling the city government for answers. The Santa Fe New Mexican reports that on Thursday the New Mexico History Museum was trying to find where its emergency drainage system discharged water, causing the intentionally bright, nontoxic dye to seep into the river.

**12 — Obama may back Louisiana use of offshore oil revenue for coastal restoration, state official says, Times Picayune, 8/28/2015**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/08/obama\\_may\\_back\\_louisiana\\_use\\_o.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/08/obama_may_back_louisiana_use_o.html#incart_river)

President Barack Obama held out hope to state officials on Thursday (Aug. 27) in New Orleans that his administration might back down from plans to redirect 35 percent of federal offshore oil and gas revenue from Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states to the general budget, according to a news release issued late Thursday by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

### **13 Arkansans laud water-rule injunction, Ark. Online, 8/29/2015**

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2015/aug/29/arkansans-laud-water-rule-injunction-20-1/?f=latest>

Arkansas lawmakers and businesses on Friday praised a North Dakota federal judge's decision to temporarily block a controversial clean water rule from taking effect in the state. In June, Arkansas and a dozen other states filed a lawsuit seeking to halt the Clean Water rule, which defines which bodies of water the Environmental Protection Agency has jurisdiction over as part of the Clean Water Act. Also called the Waters of the United States rule, it defines when the agency regulates tributaries, wetlands, streams and "other waters," most of which states had previously regulated.

### **14 WOTUS countdown begins, Journal, 8/31/2015**

[http://www.hpj.com/opinion/wotus-countdown-begins/article\\_304f801a-29f4-5f48-979d-ecfb8a071cfc.html](http://www.hpj.com/opinion/wotus-countdown-begins/article_304f801a-29f4-5f48-979d-ecfb8a071cfc.html)

The “Waters of the United States” rule—commonly known as the WOTUS rule—will go into effect soon, barring any injunction being granted by the states that sued over the rule. To jog your memory, the WOTUS rule was concocted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers to give the federal government more control over bodies of water in the U.S.